



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania 2009 Potato Production

HARRISBURG, PA, Sept 24, 2010 - - According to the Pennsylvania office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania's acreage of fall potatoes harvested in 2009 totaled 9,500 acres, the same as in 2008. Yield per acre averaged 310 cwt, up 45 cwt from 2008. Production of fall potatoes for 2009 totaled 2,945,000 cwt, up 17 percent from the 2008 production of 2,518,000 cwt. The value of production was 37,402,000 dollars, up 12 percent from the 33,489,000 dollars posted in 2008.

Potato sales totaled 2,693,000 cwt, 91 percent of the 2009 crop. In 2008, 2,437,000 cwt, or 97 percent of the total production, was sold. The average price received in 2009 was \$12.70 per cwt, down from \$13.30 in 2008, a decrease of 5 percent. Of the total production, 7,000 cwt were used for seed, feed, or home use on the farms, while 245,000 cwt went to shrinkage and other losses. This is compared to 2008, when farm use accounted for 16,000 cwt and shrinkage and other losses were 65,000 cwt.

Nationally, Potato production in 2009 is revised to 431 million cwt, down slightly from the estimate in the January Crop Production 2009 Summary but 4 percent above the 2008 crop. Harvested area, at 1.04 million acres, is down 1 percent from 2008. The average yield of 414 cwt per acre is a record high, up 18 cwt from 2008, the crop year with the previous record high.

Fall potato production is finalized at 394 million cwt for 2009, 4 percent above the 2008 crop. Area harvested in 2009 is 917,200 acres, down 1 percent from the previous year. The average yield, at 429 cwt per acre, is a record high, 18 cwt above the previous record high set in 2008.

The value of all potatoes sold in 2009, at \$3.26 billion, increased 7 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$8.19 per cwt, is down 0.90 from 2008. The quantity of potatoes sold from the 2009 crop totaled 398 million cwt, up 3 percent from 2008. Sales account for 92 percent of 2009 production, down 1 percent from the previous year.

Processors used 256 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2009 crop, up 1 percent from 2008. Table stock sales totaled 115 million cwt, 5 percent above the previous year. Seed sales of 20.2 million cwt are down 3 percent from 2008. Sales for livestock feed, at 6.53 million cwt, increased significantly from 2008.

Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 42.9 million cwt in 2009, down 16 percent from the previous year. Frozen French fries and other frozen products utilized 159 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 4 percent from 2008. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 44.4 million cwt, up 9 percent from 2008. Canning use, at 2.73 million cwt, is down 5 percent from the previous year. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 6.49 million cwt of potatoes, 23 percent more than 2008.

Shrinkage and loss is estimated at 29.1 million cwt for 2009, 10 percent above 2008. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.19 million cwt, 44 percent above the previous season. Growers kept 3.35 million cwt for seed on their own farms, 1 percent higher than a year earlier.

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